

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-13 are now in the application. Claims 1, 3 and 5-13 are subject to examination. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11 and 12 have been amended. Claim 13 has been added.

Claims 2 and 4 have been canceled.

Under the heading "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102" on pages 2 and 3 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1, 7-10 and 12 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,269,014 to Sander et al. (hereinafter Sander) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In view of the Examiner's comments under the heading "Allowable Subject Matter" on page 4 of the Office Action, claim 1 has incorporated the features of allowable claim 2 and claim 3 has been put in independent form including the features of claim 1 and allowable claim 4. Claim 12 has incorporated the features of allowable claim 2. Claim 13 has been added and includes the features of original claims 1, 3 and 4 is based on a switching regulator as recited in claim 12. The remaining claims have been amended to be compatible with either newly amended claim 1 or 3.

Under the "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103" on pages 3 and 4 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 3 and 11 have been rejected as being obvious over by Sanders in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,481,178 to Wilcox et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claim 3 has been put in independent form and includes the features of allowable claim 4. Claim 11 depends from amended claim 1 which is believed to be allowable.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 3, 12 or 13. Claims 1, 3, 12 and 13 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 3.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3, and 5-13 are solicited.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of two months pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$420.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Appl. No. 10/056,767
Amdt. Dated May 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 16, 2003

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith should be charged to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

In addition, please find enclosed a fee for \$86.00 for the addition of a fourth independent claim.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants

REL:cgm

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